

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /137 W
-----024396 151809Z /41

R 140814Z APR UI
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WAQHDC 2998
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL PERTH
USMISSIMN GENEVA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2825

USMTN

USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, AS
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD MTN

REF: (A) STATE 85778(NOTAL), (B) CANBERRA 2571 (NOTAL),
(C) GENEVA 4500(,95-), (D) CANBERRA A047

1. DURING ONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AND OFFICE DIRECTOR EA/ANP,
ED HURWITZ, JD.C.C. MOORE, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
OVERSEAS ECONOMIC RELATIONS DIVISION, THE TREASURY, CONFIRMED
WIDESPREAD BELIEF AMONG AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALDOM THAT AUSTRALIA
WAS GOING TO GET LITTLE OR NOTHING ON AGRICULTURAL KRONT OUT
OF MTN AND THA THEREFORE THERE WAS ITTLE POINT IN BEING
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FORTHCOMING IN MORETHAN TOKEN SENSE ON INDUSTRIAL OR NTB
FRONTS. PAUCITY OF AUSTRALIAN SUBMISSION WOULD APPEAR TO
BEAR THIS OUT (STATE 85778 AND GENEVA 4500). MOORE SAID
THAT WITH FOREGOING HAVING BEEN SAID, EMBASSY WOULD HAVE
NOTICED THAT MINISTERS ARE CHARGING OFF IN ALL DIRCTIONS
AND MAKING SORONG STAOEMENTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S TRADE DESIRES

TO THE EEC AND THE JAPANESE. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE PM'S STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ON THE SAD CONDITION OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN RIGHTING THE SITUATION. HE ADDED THAT THE RESULTS OF ANTHONY'S RECENT TRIP TO JAPAN WERE NOT ENCOURAGING AND THAT HE THOUGHT GARLAND WOULD MAKE NO PROGRESS AGAINST THE CAP, DESPITE HIS RATHER TOUGH AND THREATENING STATEMENTS, WHICH HAVE RATHER UNSETTLED LOCAL EEC DIPLOMATS, OR AT LEAST THE DUTCH(CANBERRA 2571).

2. LEST IT BE THOUGHT THAT MOORE WAS MERELY EXPRESSING A HARD LINE PROTECTIONIST VIEW, YOU SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT TREASURY HAS TRADITIONALLY LEANED IN DIRECTION OF FREER TRADE. IN FACT DURING OUR CONVERSATION MOORE TOLD US THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT OVER THE YEARS AUSTRALIA'S HIGH TARIFF BARRIERS HAD HINDERED HER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MOORE WAS MERELY STATING WHAT HE CLEARLY THOUGHT TO BE A REALISTIC EVALUATION OF AUSTRALIA'S POSSIBILITIES OF SUCCESS IN FIELDS IN WHICH IT HAS ONLY REALLY VITAL INTEREST, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS THIS ATTITUDE WHICH DEPUTY SECRETARY WOLFF SOUGHT TO COUNTER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO CANBERRA. WHILE AUSTRALIANS ACCEPTED AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S ARGUMENT THAT ONE MUST MAKE AN OFFER TO SIT AT THE TABLE, IT SEEMS APPARENT THEY DID NOT ALTER THEIR PRECONCEIVED BELIEF IN FUTILITY OF EXERCISE FROM STANDPOINT THEIR INTERESTS.
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AUSTRALIANS IN THIS RESPECT HAVE A CURIOUS BLIND SPOT TOWARDS THEIR OWN PROTECTIONISM, REGARDING THEIR OWN HIGH DUTIES AS ESSENTIAL AND THEREFORE JUSTIFIED AND NON-NEGOTIABLE. AS EMBASSY SUGGESTED IN CANBERRA A-047, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT NOTHING SHORT OF A CONVINCING MATHEMATICAL STUDY WILL HAVE ANY HOPE OF PERSUADING AUSTRALIANS THAT SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL PROTECTION, IN MTN OR OTHERWISE, WILL WORK TO AUSTRALIA'S BENEFIT.
ALSTON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, NEGOTIATIONS, TARIFF SCHEDULES, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER02825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780162-0931
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804105/aaaafjek.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: be7035a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 85778, 78 CANBERRA 2571, 78 GENEVA 4500, 78 CANBERRA 47
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2828278
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970819
Subject: AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD MTN
TAGS: ETRD, AS, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/be7035a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014